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Getting to grips with Indigenous Data

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It is acknowledged that professional members in their employed capacity, may be active market participants in their respective industries who may compete with each other as defined by competition law.

Participants are, therefore, reminded that in accordance with their competition law compliance obligations they should not:

- discuss any matter that may be perceived as being cooperation by competitors in a market to influence that market;

- discuss any matters that could be regarded as fixing, maintaining or controlling prices, allocation of customers or territories, coordinating bids and/or restricting output or acquisitions in any circumstances;

- share commercially sensitive information relating to their employer; or

- share information for an anti-competitive purpose.

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Acknowledgements

- Thanks to our reference group – Rick Shaw, Ken Zulumovski, Rick Macourt.

- Thanks to the First Nations people who have engaged with us on the topic.

- We acknowledge the First Nations researchers whose work we have drawn on heavily – Profession Raymond Lovett, Professor Maggie Walter, Dr Terri Janke, and Maim nayri Wingara.

Oolgna Na Nura, 2023
(Meaning: to deeply relate and see Country)
Artist: Professor Liz Belanjee Cameron

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Background to the report

- The Actuaries Institute has been engaging more heavily with social policy and issues

- When exploring issues for First Nations peoples, it became clear **Indigenous Data** was the right place to start

- The topic has relevance to Actuaries

  - Growing breadth of Actuarial work

  - Organisations are seeking to improve their First Nations engagement and offerings

  - Data is our business – this includes concepts of narrative, context and custodianship.

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Getting to Grips With Indigenous Data

An Actuaries Institute Report exploring aspects of Indigenous Data Governance and Sovereignty

September 2024

The slow path to reconciliation

Recent decades have seen significant attention, some progress:

- **90s:** Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, Native Title rights

- **00s:** Closing the Gap launched, Apology to the Stolen Generations

- **10s:** Greater organisational engagement, Uluru Statement of the Heart

- **20s:** Voice referendum.

Significant issues remain, and in some areas very limited improvement in outcomes.

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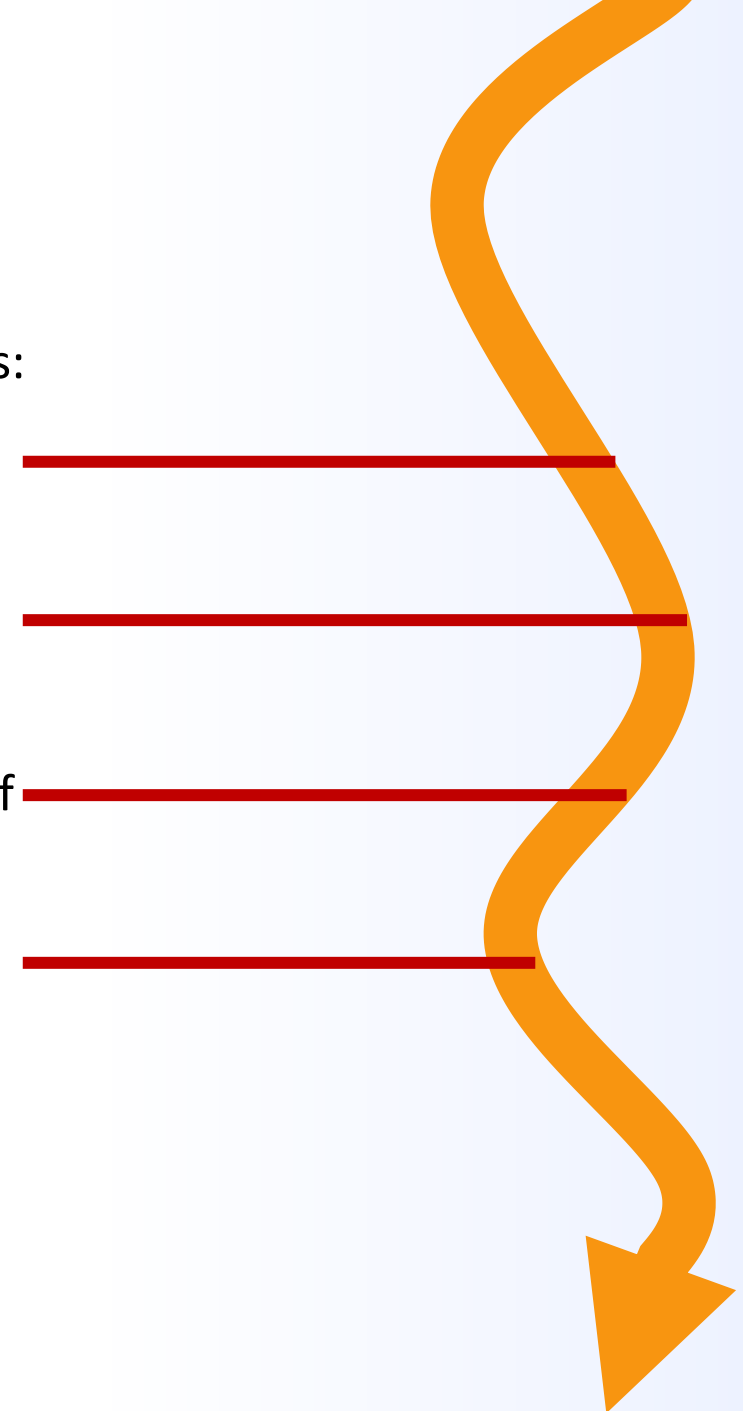
Indigenous Data Fundamentals

What is Indigenous Data?

Standard (Western) data

"Information, especially facts or numbers, collected to be examined and considered and used to help decision-making, or information in an electronic form that can be stored and used by a computer"
Cambridge Dictionary

Indigenous data

"information or knowledge, in any format or medium, which is about and may affect Indigenous peoples both collectively and individually."
Maiam nayri Wingara

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What is Indigenous Data Sovereignty?

Indigenous data sovereignty
"The right of Indigenous peoples to own, control, access and possess data that derive from them, and which pertain to their members, knowledge systems, customs or territories."
(Kukutai & Taylor 2016; Snipp 2016)

"nothing about us, without us."

Indigenous Data Sovereignty is inherently tied to the broader concept of Indigenous sovereignty and the right to self-determination.

Much of this sense is captured in UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP):

"Indigenous peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development."

(Article 3)

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Why do we need to talk about Indigenous Data?

- Data is increasingly recognised as both important and valuable

- Self-determination and community empowerment requires data to make decisions and monitor decisions

- However, most data is Western-centric, and lacks context

- Closing the Gap priority reform 4 recognises the importance of Indigenous Data

PRIORITY REFORM FOUR

4

Shared Access to Data and Information at a Regional Level

Outcome: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to, and the capability to use, locally-relevant data and information to set and monitor the implementation of efforts to close the gap, their priorities and drive their own development.

Target: Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions about Closing the Gap and their development.

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Pitfalls of current practice

Dominant 'BADDR' data	Indigenous data needs
Blaming data	Lifeworld data – Reflecting community goals and successes
Aggregate data	Disaggregated data – Reflecting diversities
Decontextualised data	Contextualised data – Reflecting social structures in which disadvantage occurs
Deficit-based data	Indigenous priority data – That reflects community priorities and agendas
Restricted access data	Available amenable data – That suits community requirements

Source: Walter et al., 2020
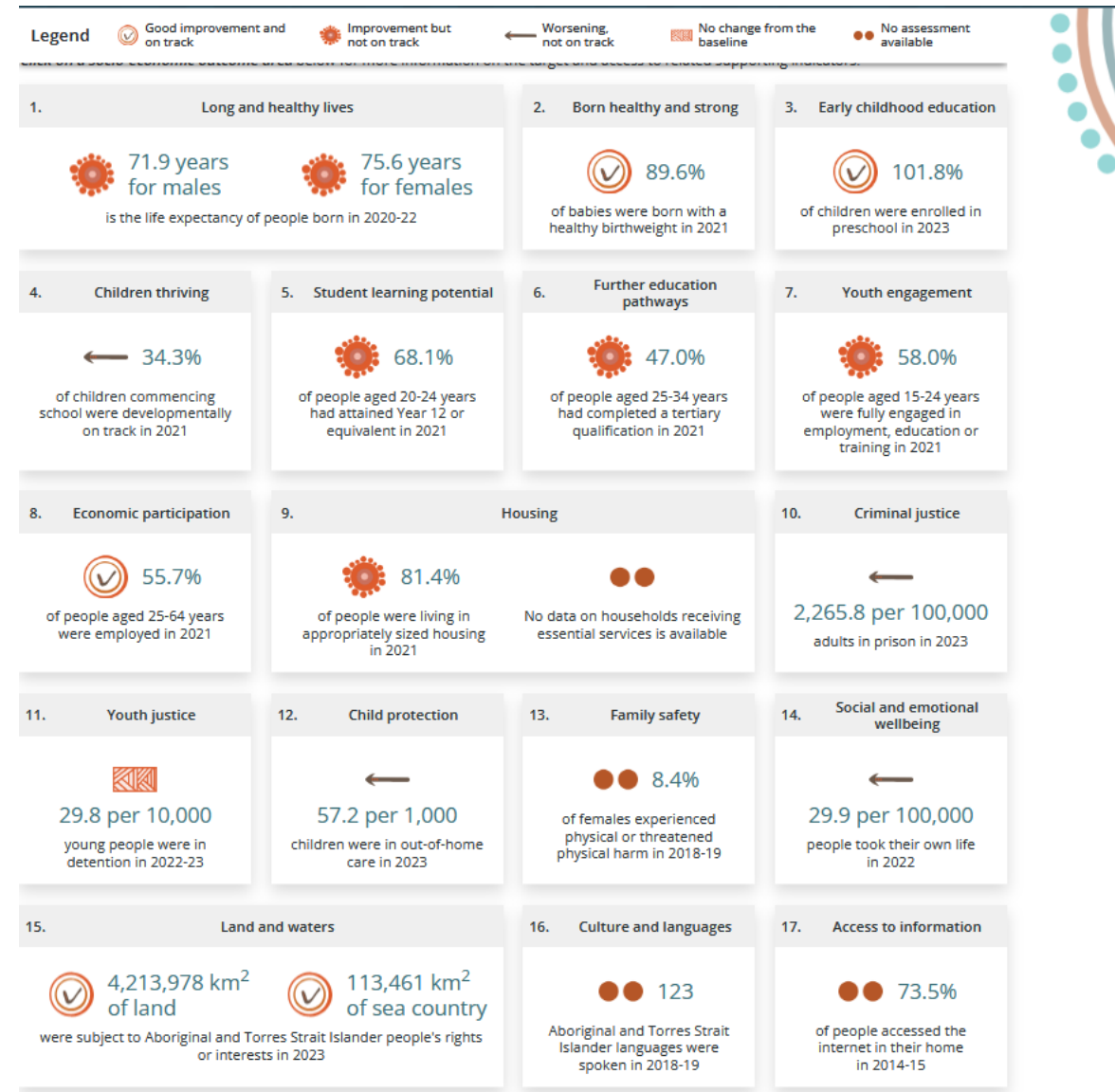
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Other challenges

- Defining First Nations people and changing patterns of self-identification

- Unit record data and privacy issues

- Intersectionality

- Indigenous data capacity

- Potential incentives for not reporting First Nations outcomes

- Open data initiatives

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Closing the Gap:
what we can learn

CtG – Background

- High-profile policy framework to support improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

- Established 2008, latest national agreement revision in 2020

- Has grown over time – currently 19 socioeconomic targets

- New in 2020 was four priority reform areas:
  1. Formal partnerships and shared decisions
  2. Building Community-controlled sector
  3. Transforming government organisations
  4. Share access to data at a regional level

Legend: ⊘ Good improvement and on track | ⊛ Improvement but not on track | ← Worsening, not on track | No change from the baseline | •• No assessment available

1. Long and healthy lives		2. Born healthy and strong	3. Early childhood education
⊛ 71.9 years for males	⊛ 75.6 years for females	⊘ 89.6%	⊘ 101.8%
is the life expectancy of people born in 2020-22		of babies were born with a healthy birthweight in 2021	of children were enrolled in preschool in 2023

4. Children thriving	5. Student learning potential	6. Further education pathways	7. Youth engagement
← 34.3%	⊛ 68.1%	⊛ 47.0%	⊛ 58.0%
of children commencing school were developmentally on track in 2021	of people aged 20-24 years had attained Year 12 or equivalent in 2021	of people aged 25-34 years had completed a tertiary qualification in 2021	of people aged 15-24 years were fully engaged in employment, education or training in 2021

8. Economic participation	9. Housing		10. Criminal justice
⊘ 55.7%	⊛ 81.4%	••	← 2,265.8 per 100,000
of people aged 25-64 years were employed in 2021	of people were living in appropriately sized housing in 2021	No data on households receiving essential services is available	adults in prison in 2023

11. Youth justice	12. Child protection	13. Family safety	14. Social and emotional wellbeing
▧ 29.8 per 10,000	← 57.2 per 1,000	•• 8.4%	← 29.9 per 100,000
young people were in detention in 2022-23	children were in out-of-home care in 2023	of females experienced physical or threatened physical harm in 2018-19	people took their own life in 2022

15. Land and waters		16. Culture and languages	17. Access to information
⊘ 4,213,978 km² of land	⊘ 113,461 km² of sea country	•• 123	•• 73.5%
were subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights or interests in 2023		Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages were spoken in 2018-19	of people accessed the internet in their home in 2014-15

Productivity Commission Dashboard

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CtG – Comments

- Generally seen poor ability to meet targets (5 of 19 of current targets on track).

- Data continues to be an issue – some indicators measured infrequently. In particular, limited progress on measuring Priority Reforms, and confusion over Priority #4.

- Some concerns about 'BADDR' nature of measures.

- Some questions over governance and accountability – how targets translate into spending.

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Areas of Progress and the Future

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The Yoorrook Justice Commission

Victoria's Yoorrook Justice Commission is the first formal truth-telling process into injustices experienced by First Peoples.

Also the first inquiry, royal commission or truth-telling process to apply Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles.

The plan steps through key aspects:

- Information to which it applies (new and existing)

- Attribution (groups, individuals and other sources)

- Data governance for both use and publication (consent, confidentiality, and future use)

- How to identify sensitive data

- Handling and storage.

YOORROOK WITH PURPOSE
Interim Report
June 2022

YOORROOK for Justice

Report into Victoria's Child Protection and Criminal Justice Systems
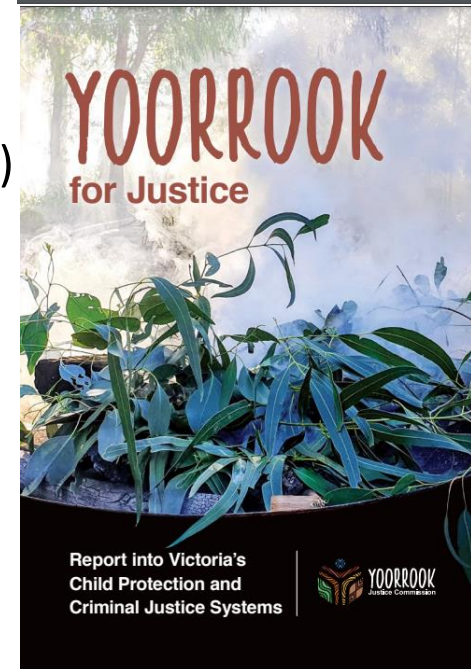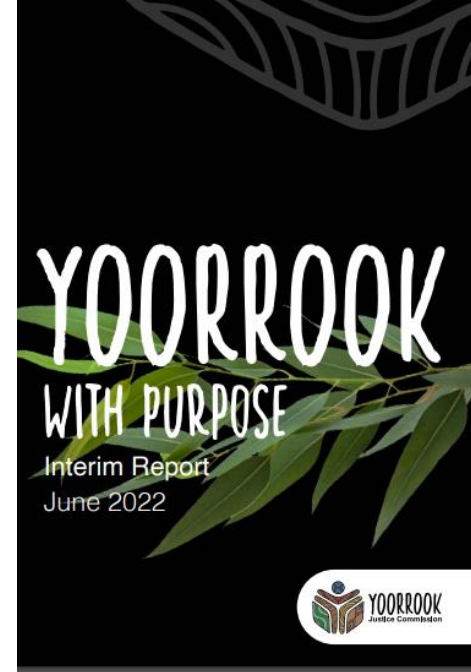
INDIGENOUS DATA SOVEREIGNTY AND DAT[...]

The Yoorrook Justice Commission is the first Inquiry, Royal Commission [...] Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles to the collection, handling, storage [...] information.

This information sheet summarises key elements of Yoorrook's Indigenou[...] governance policies in the case of information shared by First Peoples, wh[...] prior consent to any relevant use, publication and/or access.

1. BACKGROUND
2. YOORROOK'S MANDATE — INDIGENOUS DATA SOVEREIGNTY CONSI[...]
3. RELEVANT SOURCES OF INFORMATION
4. ATTRIBUTION
5. INDIGENOUS DATA GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS
6. IDENTIFICATION OF SENSITIVE INFORMATION
7. HANDLING AND STORAGE WITHIN YOORROOK
8. INDIGENOUS DATA GOVERNANCE - ADVISORY BODIES

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https://yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au/

Bourke (Maranguka) Justice Reinvestment

Justice reinvestment reinvests resources away from the criminal justice system to community-led, place-based initiatives that address the drivers of crime and incarceration.

An evidence-based approach, Indigenous Data Sovereignty is an important component.

Maranguka have developed a performance framework and platform, ≥15 different sources.

Dashboard is used to publish data back to community.

The Bourke Tribal Council governs the data, however the data itself is owned by Aboriginal peoples, whose life experience it reflects.

https://www.justreinvest.org.au/community/bourke-maranguka/

Maranguka means *'caring for others'* in Ngemba language
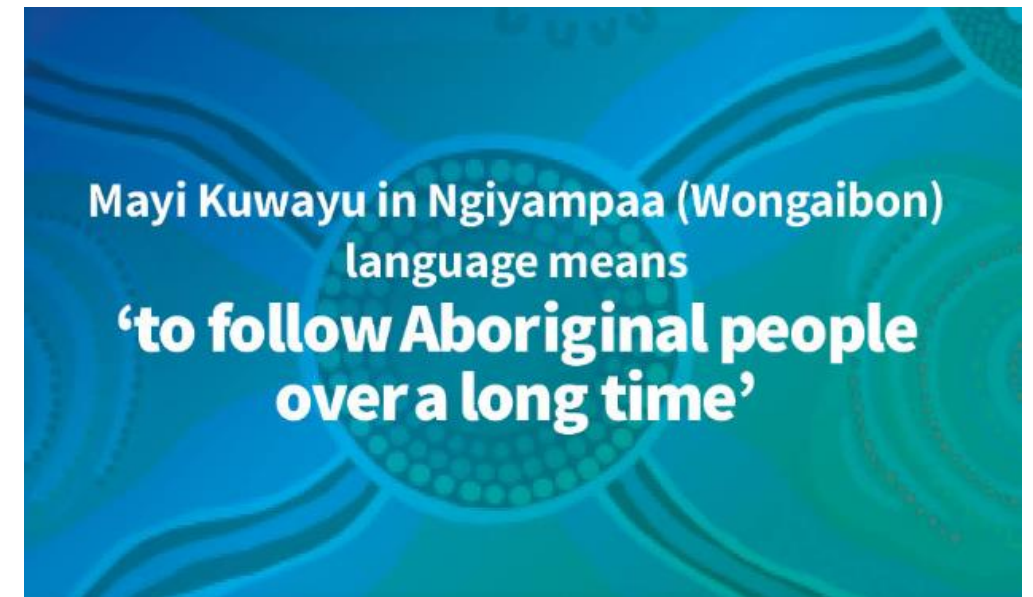
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The Mayi Kuwayu Study

Relatively new national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander longitudinal study.

Designed in adhere to Indigenous Data Sovereignty and includes carefully developed new cultural indicators.

This was an iterative process, ~29 focus groups and ~190 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults.

Survey questions were tested and then adapted in accordance to community feedback.

https://mkstudy.com.au/

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Strengthening the community-controlled sector

CtG Priority Reform 2 relates to **strengthening the community-controlled sector**, such as ACCOs.

ACCOs design and deliver high quality, holistic and culturally safe services.

The role of ACCOs appears to have grow, but this is difficult to quantify and track.

Data collections of the number and size of ACCOs would be valuable to better track the growth of the sector, consistent with the Priority Reform.

ACCOs themselves can be a key avenue to collect data and use this demonstrate value.

Championing Indigenous-Led Research

Ideally projects impacting First Nations people would be led by First Nations researchers, but this is in conflict with availability of First Nations researchers.

Significant over-burden on First Nations people.

Suggest effort needed to:

- Continue building First Nations capacity

- Ensure that communities being studied benefit from the research

- Ensure that non-Indigenous researchers are held to high standards when undertaking First Nations research.

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Better Management of Systems to Support IDS and Concepts of Wellbeing

Identified needs:

- Access and control of community level data

- Culturally robust measures of wellbeing

- Socially contextualised data

- Address power imbalances

- Continued engagement with First Nations peoples.

Questions and discussion

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Thank you

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